



NEWS RELEASE

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CITY OF COVINGTON OPENS GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST LOCALLY-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Covington, WA – At their June 23 meeting, the Covington City Council approved the administration of a new grant program utilizing \$130,000 of CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) dollars to assist Covington small businesses that have been adversely impacted by COVID-19. Applications for this Covington Rapid Relief Program are being accepted now through July 27.

The Covington Rapid Relief Program will provide working capital grants in amounts limited from \$2,500 up to \$7,500 to small, locally-owned businesses that meet specific criteria outlined in the application. Grant amounts available will be determined by the number of people employed at the small business and the businesses must be located within Covington city limits.

Businesses awarded a grant can utilize the funds toward expenses like lease or loan payments, wages, taxes and employee benefits, operating costs and expenses, payment for PPE (personal protective equipment), and for improvements necessary for protection of employees and customers.

Funding for this program is made possible by City of Covington reimbursements from the State of Washington using CARES Act dollars available to support local recovery efforts from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. The City has partnered with Evergreen Business Capital to help administer the process.

The Rapid Relief Program Application and Economic Injury Worksheet, which includes eligibility criteria and requirements, are posted on the city website at www.covingtonwa.gov/businesses/covid19.php.

Both the application and worksheet need to be completed and submitted no later than July 27 at 5 p.m. to the City of Covington. Decisions on awards are expected in mid-August.

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